

Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists

MEDICAL and CLINICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGISTS, also known as clinical laboratory scientists, examine and analyze body fluids, tissues, and cells. They look for bacteria, parasites, or other microorganisms; analyze the chemical content of fluids; and match blood for transfusions. They also prepare specimens for examination, count cells, and look for abnormal cells. Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists use automated equipment and instruments that perform a number of tests simultaneously, as well as microscopes, cell counters, and other sophisticated laboratory equipment. They analyze test results and relay them to physicians.

When conducting tests, Technologists follow well-defined procedures. They supervise lab assistants who use various computerized instruments. However, Technologists must set up and adjust the automated equipment and check its performance.

Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists may specialize as cytotechnologists or histotechnologists. Cytotechnologists prepare slides of body cells and microscopically examine the cells for signs that may reveal the beginning of a cancerous growth. Histotechnologists cut, stain, and prepare tissue slides for microscopic examination for use in research or diagnosis. They also identify tissue parts using electron microscopy.

Requirements

- ▲ Completion of a bachelor's degree in medical technology or in one of the life sciences.
- ▲ One year of clinical laboratory training.
- ▲ California State license, including continuing education requirements.
- ▲ Analytical and detail oriented.
- ▲ Strong aptitude for science.
- ▲ Ability to use automated equipment and instruments to perform tests.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance may be required by employer.

Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists

Wages

- ▲ Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists
Median hourly wage: \$31.80
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$65,909

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2006 by EDD/LMID.

Job Outlook

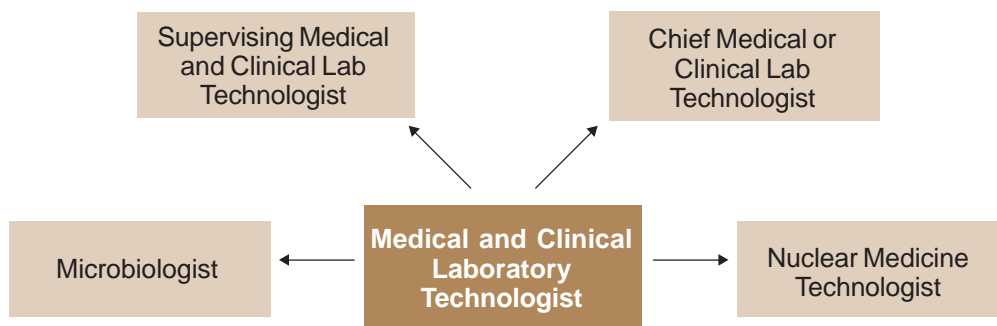
- ▲ Estimated number of Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists in 2004: 12,000
- ▲ Estimated number of Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists in 2014: 14,400
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 560

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ Department of Health Services
Division of Laboratory Science
(510) 412-5846
www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ls
- ▲ California Association for Medical Laboratory Technology
(510) 792-4441
www.camlt.org
- ▲ *California Occupational Guide*, No. 17
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Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.